THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) An Expert Group constituted by this Department undertook a nation-wide evaluation of the Total Literacy Campaigns in 1993-94 which highlighted their strengths and weaknesses.

(b) New approaches to accelerate the literacy programme in the Ninth Five Year Plan include greater involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions, Community and Voluntary organisations.

(c) The National Literacy Mission is making effective use of the electronic media to motivate the masses to participate in the literacy programmes and to generate demand for literacy.

Project "Towards Freedom"

388. SMT. VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in August 1993 the Indian Council of Historical Research undertook a project called "Towards Freedom" tracing India's struggle for freedom during the decade preceding 1947, the year of Independence;

(b) whether the project has failed to produce any document with the name, and if so, the precise achievement made in respect of this project; and

(c) the reasons for the failure, indicating the cost and foreign tours undertaken by the researchers in connection therewith?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), it was decided in 1973 to compile history of Freedom Struggle between 1937 and 1947 and the work was begun in 1976. The first volume of 1358 pages covering the year 1937 was published in 1985. The progress of the project was slow till 1987 when ICHR decided to appoint Volume Editor for each year. The progress thereafter has been as below:

1938	In Press (three parts)
1939	In progress
1940	Ready for Press
1941	In progress
1942	In progress
1943-44	Published in three parts in 1997
1945	Ready for Press
1946	In Press
1947	In progress

2. The total expenditure incurred on the programme from 1973-74 to 1991-92 is approximately Rs. 1.37 crores. There is no expenditure on foreign travel of persons connected with this publication programme. The Council does not receive any separate allocation for this from the Government.

Proposal to provide free text books in Primary Schools

389. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide free text books in primary schools in the country in order to encourage people below poverty line to send their children to schools;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) Most States and Union Territories provide free text books in primary schools to certain specified categories of students, including those belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Communities, girls, poor students and students in rural/educationally backward areas. Some States/UTs including Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Rajasthan, Sikkim, West Bengal, Delhi and Laksheadweep provide free text books to all students in primary classes in Government and local body schools.

The Ministry has requested Str Governments to give priority to the matter. St wise estimates of expenditure to implemer proposal are not available.